

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/AFN:TSWILKINSON/NH
APPROVED BY P:PCHABIB
NEA:SSOBER
S/S:MR. ORTIZ

-----121632Z 013252 /41

P 121616Z MAR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TUNIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 055962

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (HABIB, PHILIP C.)

SUBJECT: VISIT BY UNDER SECRETARY HABIB TO MAGHREB

REF: STATE 46672

1. PURSUANT TO LONG STANDING TUNISIAN INVITATION, UNDER SECRETARY HABIB INDICATED TO TUNISIAN AMBASSADOR HEDDA ON FEBRUARY 28 THAT HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO VISIT TUNIS AND STOP IN OTHER NORTH AFRICAN CAPITALS THIS SPRING (REFTEL). WE ARE NOW MAKING TENTATIVE PLANS FOR SUCH A VISIT, WHICH WOULD INCLUDE STOPS IN RABAT AND ALGIERS, FOR APPROXIMATE PERIOD OF APRIL 10-17. PREFERRED SEQUENCE OF VISITS IS ALGIERS-TUNIS-RABAT, WHICH WOULD HAVE ADVANTAGES OF:

-- AVOIDING DIRECT TRAVEL BETWEEN ALGIERS AND RABAT

-- ALLOWING FOR DIRECT RETURN FLIGHT FROM CASABLANCA TO
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NEW YORK (KENNEDY)

-- PERMITTING VISIT TO ALGIERS DURING REGULAR WORKING WEEK.

2. AS FAR AS WE KNOW HERE, WEEK OF APRIL 10-17 WOULD NOT CONFLICT WITH ANY IMPORTANT EVENTS IN HOST COUNTRIES, NOR

WITH OTHER VIP VISITS OR ABSENCES FROM CAPITALS OF KEY
HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, EXCEPT POSSIBLY PRIME MINISTER
NOUIRA.

3. PRIOR TO APPROACHING HOST GOVERNMENTS, REQUEST EMBASSY
VIEWS ON WHETHER HABIB VISIT WOULD BE TIMELY AND PRO-
DUCTIVE, AND ON ANY POSSIBLE SCHEDULING CONFLICTS,
ASSUMING APPROXIMATELY 48 HOURS IN EACH CAPITAL.

4. FOR TUNIS: EMBASSY HAS REPORTED THAT PRIME MINISTER
NOUIRA WILL BE IN USSR IN FIRST WEEK OF APRIL, AND THAT
HE WILL BE OUT OF COUNTRY DURING MOST OF FIRST HALF OF
MONTH. IF POSSIBLE, REQUEST YOU INQUIRE DISCREETLY
WHETHER APRIL 13-14 WOULD BE CONVENIENT FOR HABIB
VISIT. IF NECESSARY, WE COULD SLIP SCHEDULE A FEW
DAYS.
VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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TAGS: OVIP, (HABIB, PHILIP C)
To: ALGIERS TUNIS MULTIPLE
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